(19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau





(43) International Publication Date 29 September 2005 (29.09.2005)

(10) International Publication Number WO 2005/090642 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification: C25C 3/12 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:

PCT/IB2005/000788

- (22) International Filing Date: 18 March 2005 (18.03.2005)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:

PCT/IB2004/000886

18 March 2004 (18.03.2004) IBPCT/IB2004/001416 29 April 2004 (29.04.2004) $^{\mathrm{IB}}$ PCT/IB2004/001024 7 May 2004 (07.05.2004)

- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MOLTECH INVENT S.A. [LU/LU]; 6, rue Adolphe Fischer, L-1520 Luxembourg (LU).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): NGUYEN, Thinh T. [CH/CH]; Rte du Grand-Lancy 165b, CH-1213 Onex (CH). DE NORA, Vittorio [IT/CH]; Immeuble Fontanettes B, CH-3968 Veyras (CH).
- (74) Agent: CRONIN, Brian; c/o Moltech S.A., Quai du Mont-Blanc, 21, CH-1201 Geneva (CH).

- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 6 April 2006

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.



(54) Title: ALUMINIUM ELECTROWINNING CELLS WITH NON-CARBON ANODES

(57) Abstract: A cell for electrowinning aluminium from alumina, comprises: a metal-based anode having an electrochemically active outer part comprising a layer that contains predominantly cobalt oxide CoO; and a fluoride-containing molten electrolyte in wich the active anode surface is immersed. The electrolyte is at a temperature below 950°C, in particular in the range from 910° to 940°C. The electrolyte consists of: 6.5 to 11 weight.% dissolved alumina; 35 to 44 weight% aluminium fluoride; 38 to 46 weight% sodium fluoride; 2 to 15 weight% potassium fluoride; 0 to 5 weight% calcium fluoride; and 0 to 5 weight% in total of one or more further constituents.